

Najib: No personal attacks at assembly

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PEKAN: No personal attacks, please.

This is the advice of Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Razak to those who want to speak at the party's general assembly which begins on Nov 13.

Otherwise, they are free to touch on any issue, including party policies and the government.

Speaking at his Hari Raya open house here yesterday, Najib said no restriction had been placed on speakers selected by the state liaison committees and party wings.

Nonetheless, they should refrain from touching on issues that could

be construed as personal attacks against the party leadership or any individual.

"The permanent chairman will as usual play his role and remind those who do so to stop."

He said the topics of the speeches to be delivered by state representatives would be determined by their liaison committees. Najib said the focus of the assembly, scheduled from Nov 13 to 17, was expected to revolve around issues affecting the future of the Malays and how to achieve the overall target of what used to be the National Economic Policy (NEP)

He stressed that although not all the NEP's objectives had been achieved, the affirmative action to

help the Malays and other Bumiputeras had not failed. "It is just that a nation needs more time to make such big changes."

Delegates will likely be reminded of the "loophole effects" which saw business opportunities given to the Btimpitutas slipping to others. "We need to again be reminded of our attitude of failing to see things from the long-term perspective."

The Malays and other Bumiputeras needed also to be reminded of the importance of holding on to their equity shares, land and other assets, which could help improve their social and economic standing.

Najib said other topics expected to be given priority included education, religion and social issues.'